

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ALGIER 00371 131711Z

22

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 IO-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 AID-05 COME-00 EB-07

FRB-03 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01

FBO-02 SY-05 /120 W

----- 075531

R 131525Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3845

INFO AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY RABAT

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L ALGIERS 0371

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, AG, US

SUBJECT: U.S.-ALGERIAN RELATIONS

1. SUMMARY. SECRETARY-GENERAL OF FOREIGN MINISTRY ASSURES AMBASSADOR THAT RECENT PRESS ATTACK ON OUR PRESENCE IN MOROCCO DID NOT REPRESENT GOA VIEWS. DENIES ANY SOVIET INVOLVEMENT IN SAHARA QUESTION. ASKS FOR BENEVOLENT NEUTRALITY. SAYS INCREASED POLICE PROTECTION ACCORDED EMBASSY RESULT OF RELIABLE INFORMATION DEMONSTRATION PLANNED AGAINST OUR INSTALLATION.

2. CALLED ON SECRETARY GENERAL FOREIGN MINISTRY BENHABYLES MORNING FEB. 12 TO EXPRESS TO HIM OUR CONCERN ABOUT ATTACK ON AMERICAN MILITARY PRESENCE IN MOROCCO WHICH CONTAINED IN CENTER SPREAD OF FEB. 12 ISSUE REVOLUTION AFRICAINE, OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE FLN (ALGIERS 0326/NOTAL). NOTED THAT WE HAD  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 ALGIER 00371 131711Z

RECEIVED COPY OF THIS MAGAZINE ON SAME DAY WE HAD RECEIVED WORD

OF AWARD TO U.S. COMPANY OF NEW CONTRACT VALUED AT ALMOST 1 BILLION FOR LIQUEFACTION PLANT AT ARZEW, WORD THAT EX-IM BANK HAD APPROVED CREDIT AMOUNTING TO SOMETHING LIKE \$69 MILLION FOR A SONATRACH PROJECT, AND WORD THAT INCREASED AMERICAN ECONOMIC PROJECTS IN ORAN AREA WOULD MEAN INFLUX OF SOME 600 FAMILIES, DOUBLING AMERICAN POPULATION IN ALGERIA. EVIDENTLY, ECONOMIC COOPERATION BETWEEN US WAS INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT. AT SAME TIME, SPECIAL POLICE GUARD ON EMBASSY WAS INDICATION OF GOA CONCERN ABOUT OUR SECURITY. IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, IT WAS DISTURBING TO HAVE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF FLN PUBLISHING ARTICLES SUCH AS THIS, WHICH LIKELY TO EXCITE POPULATION AGAINST US. ARTICLE WAS NOT SOMETHING TOSSED OFF CASUALLY BY ANY OLD CORRESPONDENT, BUT WAS CAREFULLY PREPARED COLLECTION ALL THE ALLEGATIONS AND LIES MOROCCAN OPPOSITION HAD BEEN NURTURING OVER THE YEARS. IT REPRESENTED MUCH WORK AND HAD APPARENTLY BEEN PREPARED FOR WIDE DISTRIBUTION. I WOULD APPRECIATE ANY EXPLANATION BENHABYLES COULD GIVE ME.

3. BENHABYLES SAID THAT IN FIRST PLACE REVOLUTION AFRICAINE DID NOT REPRESENT VIEWS OF ALGERIAN GOVERNMENT. IT REPRESENTED A CERTAIN SEGMENT OF OPINION. THAT OPINION HAD BEEN EXCITED BY A NUMBER OF EVENTS AND NEWS ITEMS. IN PARTICULAR, PEOPLE HAD BEEN STRUCK BY ACCUSATIONS IN AMERICAN PRESS THAT SOVIETS WERE AIRLIFTING ARMS TO ALGERIA, BY THE SECRETARY'S WARNING FEB. 3 AT SAN FRANCISCO THAT WE WOULD TOLERATE NO MORE ANGOLAS, BY PRESS AND RADIO REPORTS OF SHIPMENT OF HEAVY AMERICAN EQUIPMENT TO MOROCCO, BY NEWS OF CLASH BETWEEN MOROCCAN AND ALGERIAN TROOPS IN THE SAHARA, AND BY ECHOES TO THESE REPORTS GIVEN BY MOROCCAN PRESS. ALL OF THIS HAD CREATED AN IMPRESSION OF A CONCERTED CAMPAIGN AIMED AT ALGERIA. EVERYONE KNEW THAT ONLY HOT SPOT IN AFRICA ASIDE FROM ANGOLA WAS SAHARA. IT WAS NATURAL TO CONCLUDE THAT U.S. WAS ADDRESSING WARNING TO ALGERIA THAT IT REGARDED SAHARA AS ANOTHER ANGOLA.

4. BENHABYLES SAID IN THIS REGARD WE SHOULD NOT MAKE MISTAKE OF THINKING SOVIETS IN ANY WAY INVOLVED IN SAHARA. IT WAS A TOTALLY LOCAL PROBLEM OF LONG STANDING BETWEEN MOROCCO AND ALGERIA. SOVIETS HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH IT. HE DID NOT KNOW WHAT WAS ON SOVIET PLANES TRANSITING ALGIERS AIRPORT, NOR WHERE THEY WERE CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 ALGIER 00371 131711Z

GOING. HE ASSUMED THEY WERE GOING TO ANGOLA BUT RATHER DOUBTED THEY CARRYING ARMS AND TRANSITING A CIVILIAN AIRPORT. IN ANY EVENT, THESE AIRCRAFT WERE NOT TRANSPORTING ARMS TO ALGERIA.

5. BENHABYLES SAID HE WOULD CALL OUR CONCERNS RE REVOLUTION AFRICAINE ARTICLE TO ATTENTION OF APPROPRIATE AUTHORITIES. HE ADDED THAT FOREIGN MINISTRY WAS NOT IN ACCORD WITH SUCH PRESS ATTACKS AND MIGHT ALREADY HAVE MADE ITS VIEWS IN THSI

RESPECT KNOWN. ALGERIAN GOVERNMENT THOUGHT OUR RELATIONS, AND PARTICULARLY FUTURE PROSPECTS FOR THEM, VERY, VERY IMPORTANT AND DID NOT WANT THEM TO BE AFFECTED BY THIS PURELY LOCAL PROBLEM. WHAT ALGERIA WANTED FROM US WAS A BENEVOLENT NEUTRALITY --NOT A ONE-WAY NEUTRALITY SUCH AS ALGERIAN PRESS PRACTISED, BUT A TRUE NEUTRALITY WHICH DID NOT TAKE SIDES IN A FAMILY PROBLEM.

6. BENHABYLES SAID HE UNDERSTOOD MY CONCERN THAT PEOPLE WOULD GET AGITATED AGAINST AMERICANS BUT THIS WOULD BE REACTION TO EVENTS AND AMERICAN POLICIES RATHER THAN SOMETHING PRECIPITATED OR ENCOURAGED BY GOA. GOA WOULD PROTECT US, BUT WE SHOULD REALIZE THAT OUR ACTIONS AFFECTED LOCAL ATTITUDES. HE DID NOT THINK THAT MAN IN THE STREET WAS AROUSED AGAINST US, BUT THERE WERE OTHERS WHO WERE.

7. AS FOR PRESENCE OF SPECIAL POLICE IN FRONT OF EMBASSY, BENHABYLES HIMSELF HAD NOT SEEN DOSSIER BUT COULD TELL ME POLICE HAD ACTED ON BASIS SERIOUS INFORMATION THAT THERE WAS POSSIBILITY OF DEMONSTRATION AGAINST EMBASSY. GOVERNMENT WANTED VERY MUCH TO AVOID UNFORTUNATE INCIDENTS. THEY TOOK VERY SERIOUSLY OBLIGATION TO PROTECT FOREIGN INSTALLATIONS AND VISITORS. HE HAD ASSUMED THAT POLICE HAD GONE BY THIS TIME. FACT THEY WERE STILL THERE WAS UNDOUBTEDLY SIMPLE PRECAUTIONARY MEASURE, JUST IN CASE. TARGET OF ANY DEMONSTRATIONS WOULD BE BUILDINGS, NOT PERSONNEL. HE DID NOT THINK I NEED RESTRICT MY MOVEMENTS.

8. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH BENHABYLES UNUSUALLY WARM AND FRIENDLY, HIS RESPONSES REGARDING ARTICLE NOT CONVINCING. REVOLUTION AFRICAINE IS OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF OFFICIAL INSTITUTION AND ARTICLE IN QUESTION NOT ACCIDENTAL PRODUCTION OF SOME SOREHEAD. HIS COMMENTS REGARDING SECRETARY'S STATEMENT, SOVIETS AND SAHARA REFLECT LOCAL SENSITIVITIES AND BELIEF WE OPPOSE ALGERIA'S  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 ALGIER 00371 131711Z

REVOLUTIONARY AIMS. AS FOR REASONS FOR POLICE PROTECTION, DO NOT KNOW MUCH MORE THAN WE DID BEFORE CONVERSATION, BUT AT LEAST OUR CONCERNS HAVE BEEN REGISTERED AT SENIOR LEVEL. PARKER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, FOREIGN RELATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 13 FEB 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** coburnhl  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976ALGIER00371  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760056-1036  
**From:** ALGIERS  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1976/newtext/t19760253/aaaabtxo.tel  
**Line Count:** 157  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION NEA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** coburnhl  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 06 MAY 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <06 MAY 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <31 AUG 2004 by coburnhl>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** U.S.-ALGERIAN RELATIONS  
**TAGS:** PFOR, PINS, AG, US  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006